



PRESS RELEASE

Telephone: (732) 323-2620,
Fax: (732) 323-7676

News Release No. 04-1
Date: 7 April 2003
www.lakehurst.navy.mil

Contact: Thomas Worsdale, Public Affairs Officer
Lawrence Lyford, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Compatible Development

NAVAIR Lakehurst supports compatible development proposal near base

Monday, April 7, 2003 – A proposal to develop a self-storage/mini-warehouse facility on property located on Ridgeway Blvd, near Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst is considered development that is compatible with current and future mission operations and activities conducted on the base, according to Lakehurst's commanding officer, CAPT Mark Bathrick.

Giganti Builders is seeking preliminary and final major site plan approval and a conditional use permit from the Manchester Township Planning Board to build a 44,525 square foot self storage facility near the base. "A self storage facility such as the one proposed here would represent a compatible form of development near a military installation like Lakehurst," stated Bathrick. "With round-the-clock aircraft operations, testing activities and training exercises that support national defense and homeland security, there can be noise issues and hazard concerns that would generally be considered incompatible with other types of development such as residential tracts," according to Bathrick. On the other hand, light commercial and industrial businesses, close to the installation and involving limited staffs and infrequent visitors are considered compatible with base operations.

protection of military missions and the public health, safety, and welfare are mutual needs of the community and the Department of Defense. It has been the experience at other bases that when incompatible development (i.e. residential communities) occurs close to base boundaries, public pressure can often result in forced curtailment of mission essential operations on those bases. This has happened at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the former Marine Corps base at El Toro California (later closed as a result of BRAC '95), and others.

“Bases that are forced to curtail military operations as a result of encroachment by incompatible development suffer reduced current and future military value. Loss of military value as a result of encroachment is a continuing source of concern for the Department of Defense. Such forced reductions in current and future military value can impact the future viability of these installations,” said Bathrick.

NAVAIR Lakehurst is the only place in the world that provides the full spectrum of aviation operational support for ships at sea and expeditionary airfields. Also, as the Naval component of a unique contiguous three-base Mega-Base, Lakehurst has undertaken numerous initiatives with Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base to increase mission effectiveness and efficiency across the traditional installation boundaries.

Incompatible development too close to these joint boundaries could severely restrict these groundbreaking initiatives and adversely affect our long-term viability as a military installation. “With Lakehurst being the largest single employer in Ocean County, we believe that the residents of Manchester Township and other adjoining communities share our concern for the long term health of both the community and the naval base,” stated Bathrick.

-NAVAIR-

"NAVAIR provides advanced warfare technology through the efforts of a seamless, integrated, worldwide network of aviation technology experts. From professional training to carrier launch; from sensor data to precision targeting; from aircraft and weapons development to successful deployment; from real-time communication to aircraft recovery NAVAIR provides dominant combat effects and matchless capabilities to the American warfighter."